

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /095 W

-----004956 250112Z /61

R 231625Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8157

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SS, SG, MR

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON SAHARA
DISPUTE

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 2163, (B) DAKAR 6260, (C) DAKAR 6343(NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR TO MAURITANIA ALIOUNE
CISSE, SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
RESOLVING WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT. AMBASSADOR CISSE TOLD EMBOFF
SEPTEMBER 21 THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAD JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM
ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE IN WHICH BOUMEDIENE AGAIN
REITERATED GOA INSISTENCE THAT MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS AS
WELL AS THOSE INTERESTED IN RESOLVING WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE MUST
DEAL DIRECTLY WITH POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVES; ALGERIANS CANNOT
SPEAK FOR POLISARIO. CISSE COMMENTED THAT BOUMEDIENE POSITION
WAS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE SINCE ALGERIANS ARE DRIVING FORCE
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BEHIND POLISARIO TO THE POINT OF PROVIDING MEN AS WELL
ARMS FOR POLISARIO FORCES. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT BOUMEDIENE
HAS LOST TOUCH WITH FELLOW AFRICAN LEADERS AND WITH HIS OWN
PEOPLE ON THIS ISSUE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ALGERIAN LOSS OF
POLITICAL SUPPORT WITHIN AFRICA WAS CLEARLY EVIDENT AT OAU
LIBREVILLE SUMMIT, AND POINTED OUT ALERIANS WERE ALSO
ENCOUNTERING SERIOUS PROBLEMS ON ECONOMIC FRONT AS EVIDENCED

BY RECENT SERIES OF STRIKES IN ALGERIA. HE STATED THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR WOULD CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO BRING DIFFERING PARTIES IN THIS ISSUE TOGETHER BECAUSE SENEGAL FORESEES CONTINUING CONFLICT ESCALATING INTO DIRECT CLASH BETWEEN ALGERIANS AND MOROCCANS. (IN CISSE'S VIEW, KING HASSAN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL INDEFINITELY PRESSURES OF MOROCCAN MILITARY TO ATTACK TINDOUF AREA.)

2. COMMENT: WHILE AMBASSADOR CISSE WOULD PROBABLY NOT NORMALLY HAVE ACCESS TO OR PRECISE INFORMATION ABOUT PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PRESIDENTS BOUMEDIENE AND SENGHOR, HE MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN TEXT OF MOST RECENT LETTER BY DAKAR WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO PASS IT TO GIRM OFFICIALS. UNTIL YESTERDAY WE THOUGHT AMBASSADOR CISSE'S STALWART SUPPORT OF MAURITANIANS AGAINST ALGEIRS REFLECTED MORE HIS LONG TIME RESIDENCE IN NOUAKCHOTT (SIX YEARS--HE IS VICE DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS) THAN CONSIDERED POLICY OF SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT. BUT IN VIEW SENGHOR "TIRADE" AGAINST ALGERIA AND LIBYA REPORTED REF C, CISSE MAY BE REFLECTING GOS POLICY MUCH MORE ACCURATELY THAN WE HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN HIM CREDIT FOR HANDYSIDE

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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